

2011 Premier's Award Recipient List:

Lisa Boire, Public Service-Wide LEAN Initiative – Public Service Commission

Leadership

Under Ms. Lisa Boire's leadership the LEAN concept has been introduced and implemented across Saskatchewan's Public Service. LEAN has become a primary element of public service renewal by encouraging all staff, whether managers or front-line workers, to explore process improvements to achieve efficiencies and provide better customer service.

She has created a successful process to incorporate and coordinate the ideas of employees, the needs of Ministries and the goals of the public service as whole. A program which started in the Ministry of Health now encompasses all ministries, the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, and Enterprise Saskatchewan.

Under her leadership the LEAN initiative benefits employees, by re-engaging them and building upon their professional commitments, and government as a whole, by streamlining processes, creating workplace efficiencies, and making the Saskatchewan Public Service a leader in the field. Most importantly, the LEAN initiative benefits the citizens of the province through the continuous pursuit of improvements in the delivery of services they receive.

Dean Elliott, Science Resources with First Nations and Métis Knowledge - Education

Innovation

Mr. Dean Elliott has provided extensive support and input into the development of new educational resources to support new Grade 3-9 science curricula, infusing First Nations and Métis knowledge and perspectives into those materials.

Mr. Elliott worked directly with publishers, authors, elders, and knowledge keepers from the Province's First Nations and Métis communities to ensure the new educational material was accurate, authentic and respectful.

Because of the significance of his curriculum renewal work, Mr. Elliott was invited to co-author an article for the Canadian Journal of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education.

His work honours the beliefs of First Nations and validates the place of traditional knowledge in the classroom. The impact on First Nations students and teachers will be even more striking as First Nations students can now see themselves reflected in their studies, leading to better educational outcomes and a rise in the number of First Nations and Métis scientists, engineers and technicians.

Potash Task Force Team – Energy and Resources

Leadership

A multi-ministerial task force was created to develop strategic options and provide recommendations regarding the provincial position in response to the proposed takeover of the Potash Corporation by BHP Billiton.

Extensive analysis and scenario planning was conducted. The task force played an essential role in developing and communicating the province's position which was seen as one of the deciding factors in the federal government's decision. The provincial position clearly identified the uniqueness of the situation and ensured that the province would continue to attract investment in future potash development.

The work carried out by the Potash Task Force Team resulted in a renewed national dialogue regarding the review of the proposed takeover of strategic assets and resources. Their work was determined to have had a substantial impact on Industry Canada's decision to reject the takeover bid.

2011 Provincial Emergency Response Team – Corrections, Public Safety and Policing

Leadership

The Provincial Emergency Response Team continues to support communities and individuals who are in immediate need of help when disaster strikes. Team members operate within an incident command structure, run multiple operations simultaneously, make operational decisions independently and provide daily situation reports in order to keep senior decision-makers, the media and the public up to date.

In anticipation of severe flooding across the province, pre-emptive work was undertaken, including providing communities with engineering reports, building berms, clearing culverts, and ensuring that equipment such as sandbags, filling machines and water barriers was available to help residents reduce the impact of flooding. Response during flooding and recovery support after the flood waters receded has also been ongoing. Provincial recovery services include building inspections, providing information on lake and property clean-up, psychosocial assistance for residents, and help to residents completing applications for disaster financial assistance.

At the same time the team was responding to unprecedented flooding, it also coordinated and carried out the evacuation of more than 1,000 residents from the northern community of Wollaston Lake. With no road access to the community and a local airport intermittently closed due to smoke from the encroaching forest fires, the team ensured that all residents were safely evacuated over a 24-hour period to area evacuation centres with support from aircraft supplied by the Canadian military.

Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons Team –

Justice and Attorney General

Innovation

The Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons (PPCMP) is unique in bringing together, under provincial leadership, 20 agencies involved in or with expertise in dealing with missing person cases. The PPCMP draws together the experience and perspectives from various organizations including government, police, community, non-profit, First Nations and Métis partners. The PPCMP met with forty-seven affected families in 2007 and met again with families in 2009 to involve them in identifying the actions needed to support families, to prevent people from going missing, and to better respond to missing person cases. This process also assisted in improving communication between family members and investigators.

The PPCMP has worked to implement or support implementation of the actions recommended in 2007 and 2009, after meeting with families, such as the development of a checklist and media kit for family use and working to create a network of support for families. This work included hosting The Western Regional Forum on Supporting Families of Missing Persons in March 2011 and bringing together over 60 representatives from agencies across Western Canada to discuss the issue of how to support families of missing persons.

Their work has been recognized in national reports dealing with missing persons, by Amnesty International and was referenced in Canada's response to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Trans Canada Highway #1 Washout Project Team – Highways and Infrastructure

Quality Service

In what is considered to be a once in 3,700 year flood, the Trans Canada Highway #1 Washout Project team was created to deal with the devastation caused by catastrophic flooding which washed out about 500 metres of the Trans Canada Highway resulting in a 200 km detour. A critical piece of provincial and national infrastructure, the highway serves as a major thoroughfare for both commerce and tourism, with over 4400 vehicles travelling along the section daily.

The Trans Canada Highway #1 Washout Project Team mobilized personnel and equipment from many areas of the province to assist with the disaster, while managing crews and contractors who worked long hours to complete temporary repairs in order to re-open highway traffic while coordinating efforts with residents of Maple Creek where the flooding was most severe.

Their efforts not only ensured public safety but also re-opened portions of the highway within a week of the disaster while providing timely communications to senior management, local government, provincial media, the trucking industry and the general public.

Young Workers Readiness Certificate Course Development Team –

Labour Relations and Workplace Safety

Innovation

The first of its kind in Canada, the Young Workers Readiness Certificate Course Development Team created an innovative online course containing age appropriate content, evaluation tools and delivery methods all contributing to the expertise of Saskatchewan's young workers in labour standards and occupational health and safety. All 14 and 15 year old youth in the province must complete the Young Workers Readiness Certificate Course before entering the workforce.

The team created an education program that not only satisfied regulatory requirements but also prepares, educates and protects young workers entering the workforce. The program raises awareness in young workers of workplace hazards as well as their rights and responsibilities under the health, safety and employment standards legislation. A paper version is also available and is currently in use in a number of school divisions across the province.

In 2010 the course was awarded the Friends of Saskatchewan Career Work Education Association Award. Since its creation almost 5656 youth have successfully completed the course.